

Newton Abbot Rural District Council



A N N U A L - R E P O R T.

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H.

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 0.

H.M. DAVIES

M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

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H. M. DAVIES.
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
ASHEURTON U.D.C.
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD,

NEWTON ABBOT.

TELEPHONE No. 715/6

NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT - 1950.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Area(in acres) | 92,650. |
| Population - 1931 Census | 20,788. |
| Population - Mid 1950 | 24,600. |
| Rateable Value as at 1st. January, 1950.. | £136,161. |
| Rateable Value as at 31st. December, 1950 | |
| | £140,836. |
| Product of 1d. rate (as at 1st. April, | |
| 1950) | £ 549. |

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The following table shows that the Birth Rate for the District is still below that for England and Wales as a whole. It also shows a further decrease on that of previous years, the figures being 13.29 per thousand total population 1950, as against 14.7 for 1949 and 15.41 for 1948.

LIVE BIRTHS.

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate. | 159 | 153 | 312 |
| Illegitimate. | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| | <u>167</u> | <u>160</u> | <u>327.</u> |

Live Birth Rate per 1000 total population - 13.29.
Corresponding rate for England and Wales - 15.8.

STILL BIRTHS.

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 3 | 3 | 6. |
| Illegitimate | - | - | -. |
| Still Birth Rate per 1000 total population | | | - 0.24. |
| Still Birth Rate per 1000 total live and still births | | | - 18.01. |
| Still Birth Rate per 1000 total live and still births (England and Wales) | | | - 22.7. |

DEATHS.

The death rate for the Rural District continues to be higher than the average for England and Wales, this is shown in the accompanying table. During the year the average age at death from all causes was found to be 67.9 years. The average age at death for residents in the Rural District shows a decrease on that of the previous year the figure for 1949 being 72.19 years.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Death rate per 1000 resident population | - 15.1. |
| Death rate per 1000 resident population (England and Wales) | - 11.6. |

Infant Mortality. (Deaths of Infants under One year of age).

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate. | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | - | 1 |
| | <u>6</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>10.</u> |

The Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants
under One year per 1000 live births) - 30.5.
Corresponding rate for England and Wales - 29.8.

It will be seen that the Infant Mortality rate for the Rural District is very little above that for the whole country.

AGE AT DEATH.

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Infants under 1 year. | 6 | 4 |
| 1 - 5 | 2 | - |
| 5 - 15 | 1 | 3 |
| 15 - 25 | 6 | 2 |
| 25 - 35 | 4 | 3 |
| 35 - 45 | 7 | 7 |
| 45 - 55 | 12 | 14 |
| 55 - 65 | 32 | 21 |
| 65 - 75 | 56 | 50 |
| 75 and over | 71 | 71 |
| | <u>197.</u> | <u>175.</u> |

Total = 372.

The chief causes of death were:-

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <u>Infectious Cases:-</u> | | |
| Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) | 5 | 3 |
| Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary) | 3 | 1 |
| Poliomyelitis | 3 | 2 |
| Pneumonia | 6 | 6 |
| Influenza | 2 | 1 |
| <u>General Causes:-</u> | | |
| Heart and Blood Vessels | 74 | 71 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage | 17 | 27 |
| Cancer | 34 | 26 |
| Bronchitis | 8 | 6 |
| | <u>152</u> | <u>143</u> |
| c/fwd. | 152 | 143 |



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| The chief causes of death were:- | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| b./fwd. | 152 | 143 |
| <u>General Causes (contd).</u> | | |
| Other resp. diseases | 5 | 1 |
| Diabetes | 2 | 2 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 2 | - |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | 1 | 1 |
| Nephritis | 4 | 5 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 4 | - |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | - | 2 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 17 | 16 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 6 | - |
| All other accidents | 1 | 3 |
| Suicide | 2 | 2 |
| Homicide and operations of war | 1 | - |
| | <u>197</u> | <u>175</u> |

Total = 372.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| <u>Disease.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| Whooping Cough | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Measles | - | 3 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Poliomyelitis | 11 | 16 | 27 |
| Dysentery | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Food Poisoning | 2 | - | 2 |
| Erysipelas | - | 1 | 1 |
| Do. Facial | - | 1 | 1 |
| | <u>27</u> | <u>34</u> | <u>61</u> |

Total = 62.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

The year 1950 marked the most severe outbreak of Acute Poliomyelitis ever recorded in the Rural District, twenty-seven cases being notified during the period 17th. August

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS. (contd).

to 17th. November, 1950. The outbreak was at its peak in the two weeks from 4th. to 17th. October when fourteen new cases were notified.

The age incidence again shows that this disease is by no means confined to infants and that its old name of "Infantile Paralysis" is now out of date. Ten cases were reported in children under five years. Ten in those between five and fifteen years and seven in persons of over fifteen years of age.

The oldest case recorded was that of a man of fifty who succumbed to the disease. Another man of 42 recovered.

Of the twenty-seven cases which occurred in the District five proved fatal, five are likely to have severe residual paralysis sufficient to prove a severe handicap to the persons involved. Twelve are likely to have some residual paralysis but not to such an extent that they will be prevented from living a life with very little physical restriction. A complete recovery was made in five cases.

Geographically the parish worst affected was Moretonhampstead where eleven cases were reported in the period 11th. September to 16th. October. Two of these cases proved fatal. During the two weeks 4th. to 17th. October seven new cases occurred.

Considering that the population of Moretonhampstead is little over 1,700 this incidence must be regarded as exceedingly high.

The mode of spread of Poliomyelitis remains unsolved. In only two cases were two members of the same household affected. In many cases only one of a large family contracted the disease; the remaining members of the family remaining unaffected.

The incidence of Acute Poliomyelitis was no higher in parishes with adequate sewage disposal plants than it was in those villages where the system of disposal leaves much to be desired.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-seven cases were notified during the year, twenty-two male and fifteen female, of which thirty-five were pulmonary and two non-pulmonary. Details are set

out in the following table:-

| <u>AGE PERIODS:</u> | | | <u>CASES:</u> | | | |
|------------------------|----------|----|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | | | <u>Pulmonary.</u> | | <u>Non-Pulmonary.</u> | |
| | | | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
| Infants under one year | | | — | — | — | — |
| 1 | — | 5 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | — | 15 | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| 15 | — | 25 | 8 | 6 | — | 1 |
| 25 | — | 35 | 6 | 2 | — | — |
| 35 | — | 45 | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| 45 | — | 55 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 55 | — | 65 | 3 | — | — | — |
| 65 | — | 75 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 75 | and over | | — | — | — | — |
| | | | — — — — | — — — — | — — — — | — — — — |
| | | | 21. | 14. | 1. | 1. |
| | | | — — — — | — — — — | — — — — | — — — — |

Total = 37.

DIPHTHERIA.

No cases of diphtheria have been reported in the year. It is hoped that this very successful result of the Immunisation campaign will not lead to a state of apathy about the need for Diphtheria Immunisation. The need for the protection of children against diphtheria is as great as ever it was.

HOUSING.

During the year under review seventy-eight houses have been completed as show in the table given below. It should be mentioned that although no houses are shown as completed at Kingsteignton and Bovey Tracey houses were in fact completed in both these parishes shortly after the end to 1950.

It will be appreciated that taken year by year a true picture of the Council's programme is not obtained. I would point out that in spite of the number of houses erected there appeared to be no appreciable decrease in the number of applications particularly in Kingsteignton and Bovey Tracey.

HOUSING. (contd).

Details as to Council Houses erected.

| <u>PARISH.</u> | <u>NUMBER OF HOUSES.</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Kingsteignton | - |
| Bovey Tracey | - |
| Kerswells (Kingskerswell) | 6 |
| Chudleigh | 40 |
| Moretonhampstead | 6 |
| Ipplepen | 6 |
| Bickington | 2 |
| Hennock | 3 |
| Bishopsteignton | 7 |
| Ogwell | 4 |
| Torbryan (Denbury) | 4 |
| | ---- |
| Total = | 78. ---- |

Private Enterprise.

During the year the number of Houses completed under the heading of private enterprise was twenty-five.

ACTION UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

Under the provisions of Section 11
of the Housing Act, 1936.

Eleven Notices were served.
One property was demolished.
Four properties were re-conditioned according
to Undertakings given.
Six Undertakings were given not to use the
premises for Human Habitation.

Under the provisions of Section 9
of the Housing Act, 1936.

One Notice was served and complied with.

HOUSING.(contd).

Housing Act, 1949.

No grants were made under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Kingsteignton.

A 3" main has been laid from Kingsteignton toward Newton Abbot to serve garage and other premises on the Kingsteignton Road.

A 6" main was laid from the Torquay main at Newton Abbot to Kingsteignton to augment the supply for Kingsteignton.

Ipplepen.

The mains in the parish of Ipplepen which have given trouble for some time have been scraped and cleaned internally to facilitate a more adequate supply.

Widecombe (Poundsgate).

This hamlet has been provided with a piped supply of water drawn from springs and conserved in a small reservoir. All the houses in the hamlet have taken the supply.

By careful supervision and constant investigation for leakages, water supplies throughout the Rural district have been maintained without difficulty during the year.

During certain periods supplies were conserved in some areas by shutting down mains but this was done in a manner which caused only the minimum of inconvenience to the Public. No complaints of shortage of water were received during the year.

SEWERAGE.

Bovey.

During the year an extensive overhaul of the disposal works, together with pumping machinery, was carried out.

Higher Brimley.

The Outfall works serving this hamlet were overhauled and enlarged so that additional sanitary facilities in the

SEWERAGE.

Higher Brimley. (contd.)

way of water closets, baths etc. could be installed in the cottages. **Most** of the properties are now connected to the sewer.

Coffinswell.

A sewer and small Outfall works has been provided to serve a new housing site and cottages nearby. This is the first part of a scheme for sewerage the whole of Coffinswell. As a result of the work already carried out existing nuisances have been **abated**.

Kerswells and Kingsteignton.

In both of these parishes the sewers have been extended and many branches have been provided for Council Housing Estates.

A. J. Lewis
.....
Medical Officer of Health.

16th. October, 1951.

